

Figure 3: Gonorrhea Diagnoses Reported to the
Maine Bureau of Health by Year, 1996 to 2002

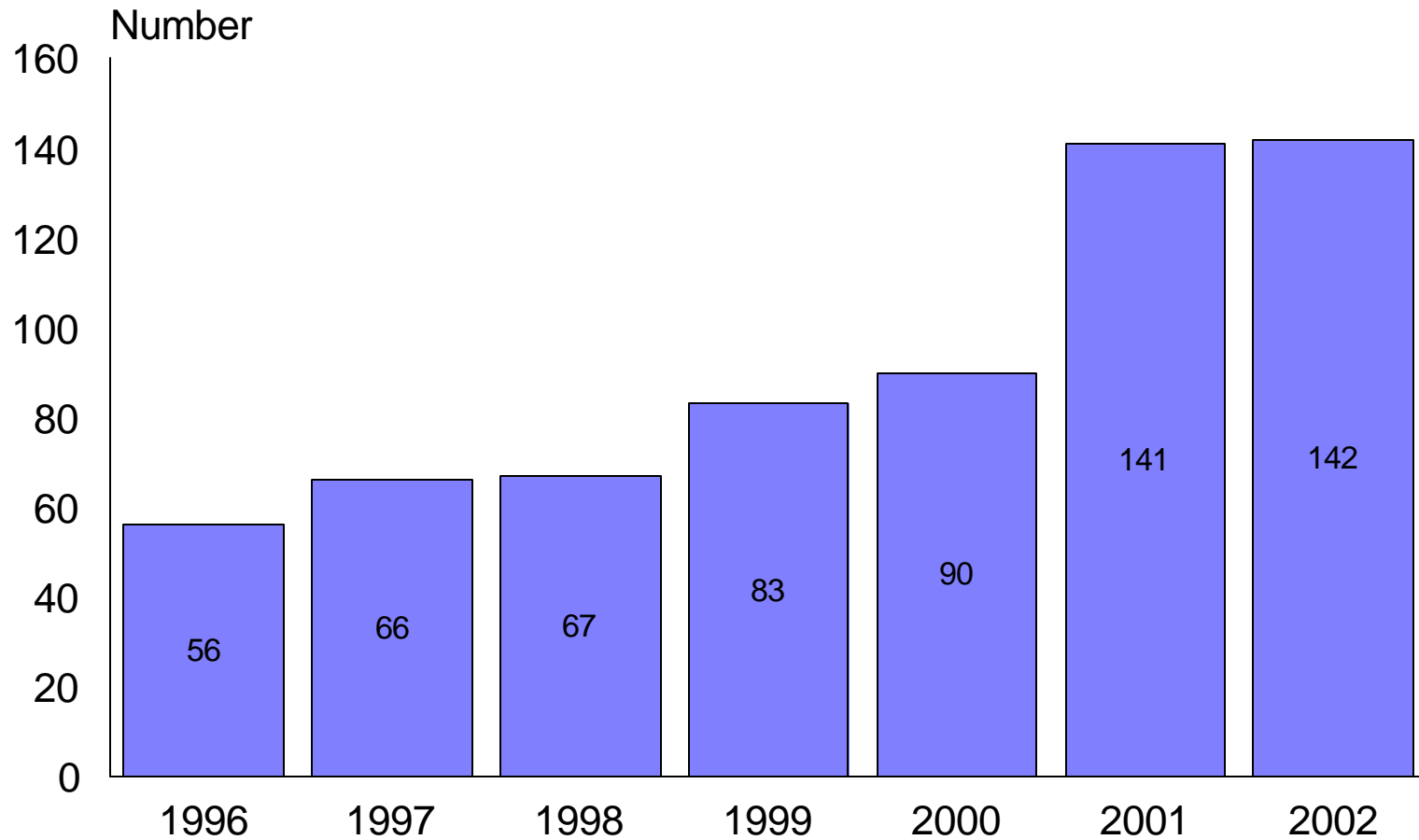


Figure 3 shows gonorrhea diagnoses reported to the Maine Bureau of Health from 1996 to 2002. Gonorrhea diagnoses have steadily increased during the past six years, with a dramatic rise in 2001 that was sustained in 2002. Between 2000 and 2001, the number of gonorrhea diagnoses increased 57%, prompting the Bureau to declare a gonorrhea outbreak in Maine that has continued through 2002.

Figure 4: 2002 Gonorrhea Diagnoses by Age Group (total = 142)

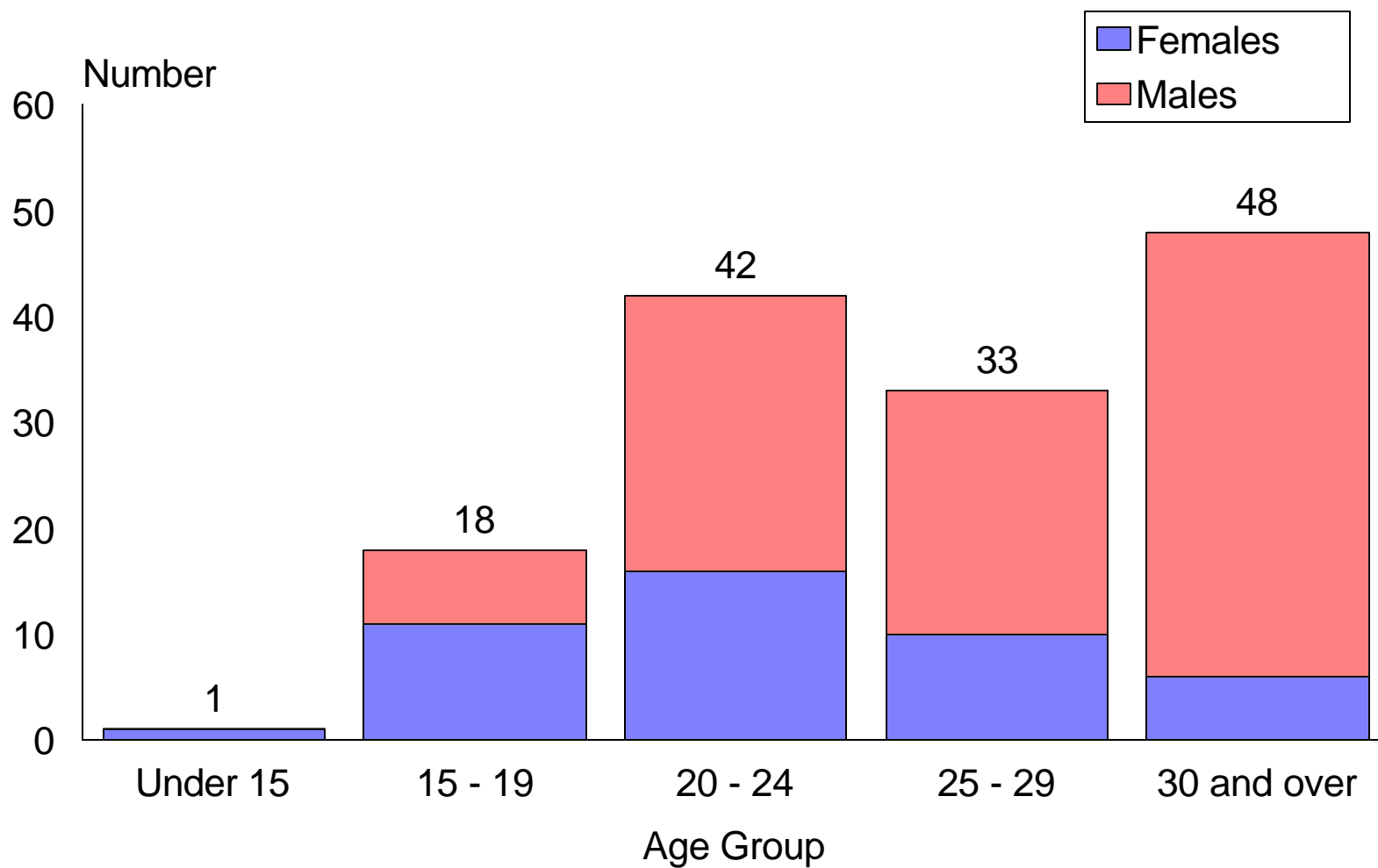


Figure 4 shows 2002 gonorrhea diagnoses by age group and sex. As with chlamydia, youth in Maine are disproportionately affected by gonorrhea, accounting for 44% of all 2002 diagnoses. In addition, males appear to be disproportionately affected, accounting for more than two-thirds of 2002 diagnoses. This is due in large part to diagnoses among males who have sex with males, who accounted for 31% of 2002 cases. Four individuals diagnosed with gonorrhea (3%) were co-infected with HIV.

Table 2: 2002 Gonorrhea Diagnoses by County

County	No. of Cases
Androscoggin	52
Aroostook	4
Cumberland	32
Franklin	2
Hancock	4
Kennebec	7
Knox	0
Lincoln	1
Oxford	1
Penobscot	7
Piscataquis	1
Sagadahoc	7
Somerset	5
Waldo	1
Washington	1
York	17

Table 2 lists 2002 gonorrhea diagnoses by county. Counties with the greatest number of diagnoses include Androscoggin, Cumberland and York Counties. At 52 diagnoses, Androscoggin accounted for 37% of all 2002 cases in the state. Several counties had very low gonorrhea incidence, including Lincoln, Oxford, Piscataquis, Waldo and Washington. Knox county had no cases reported in 2002.

Figure 5: Primary, Secondary and Early Latent Syphilis 1984-2002

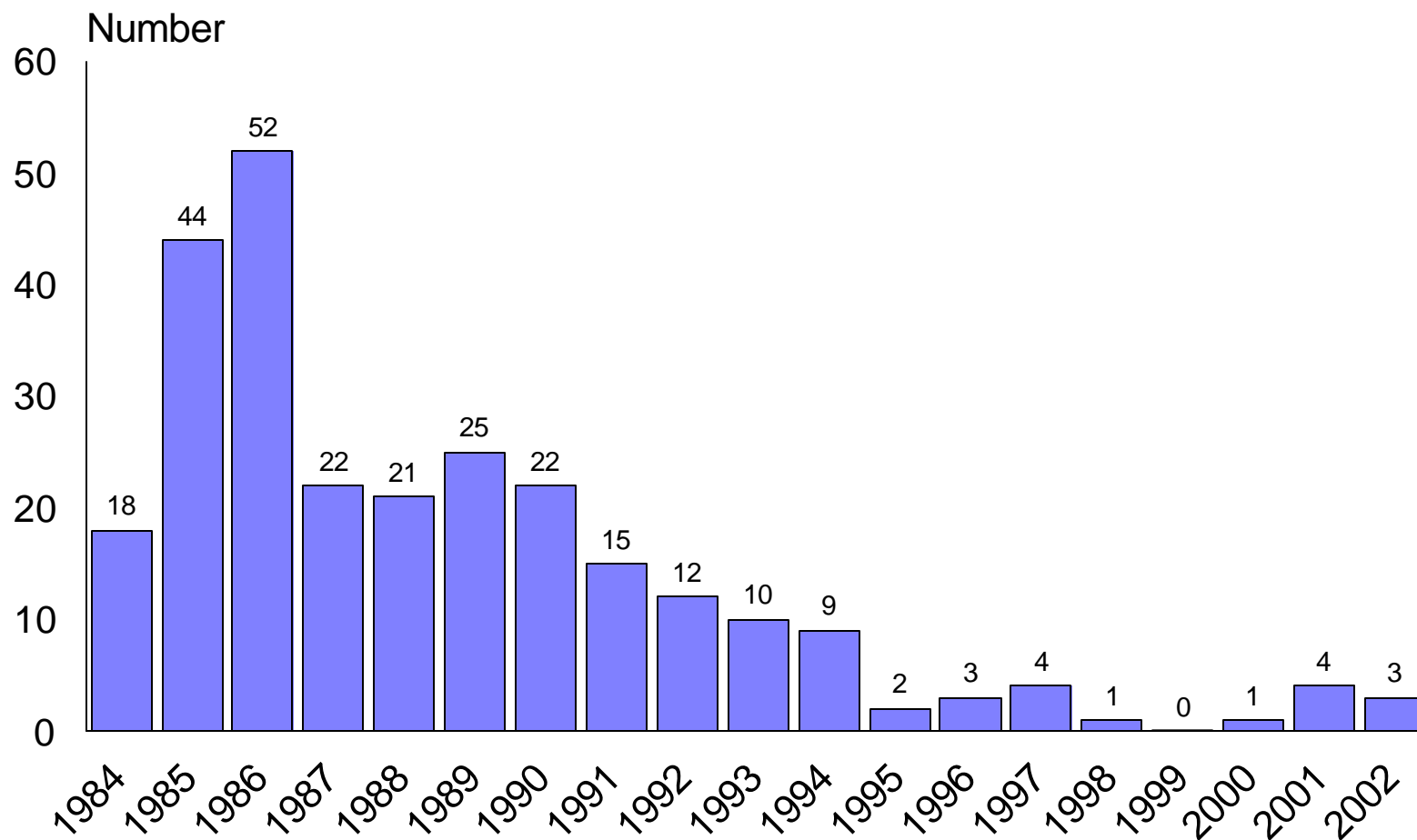


Figure 5 shows infectious syphilis diagnoses reported to the Maine Bureau of Health between 1984 and 2002. The number of syphilis cases diagnosed in Maine has declined during the past decade, with zero diagnoses in 1999. Three cases of the disease were reported in 2002. Using Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, syphilis has been virtually eliminated in the state. CDC defines “elimination” as the absence of transmission, except within 90 days of a reported case from another state or jurisdiction.